
MOTHER SHIPTON'S,

L I F E,

• A N D

CURIOUS PROPHECIES.

She, tho' from Heav'n remote, to Heaven could move,
With strength of Mind, and tread th' Abyss above ;
And penetrate, with her interior light,
Those upper depths which nature hid from Sight ;
And what she had observ'd and learn'd from thence,
Lov'd in familiar language to dispense.—DRYDEN.

(Price Sixpence.)







MOTHER SHIPTON'S STATUE

WONDERS!!!

PAST, PRESENT, AND TO COME!

BEING THE

Strange Prophecies, and Uncommon Predictions

OF THE

FAMOUS

MOTHER SHIPTON,

Generally known by the Appellation

OF THE

YORKSHIRE PROPHETESS.

Copied from the Original Scroll delivered by her to the Abbot of Beverly: Privately preserved, in a Noble Family for many Years, and lately discovered among other *Curious and Valuable* Manuscripts.

TO WHICH IS PREFIXED

An Account of her Life and other Prophecies,
with their proper Explanations.

Embellished with her Portrait from an Original Drawing, and a
Correct View of her Statue near the City of York.

London:

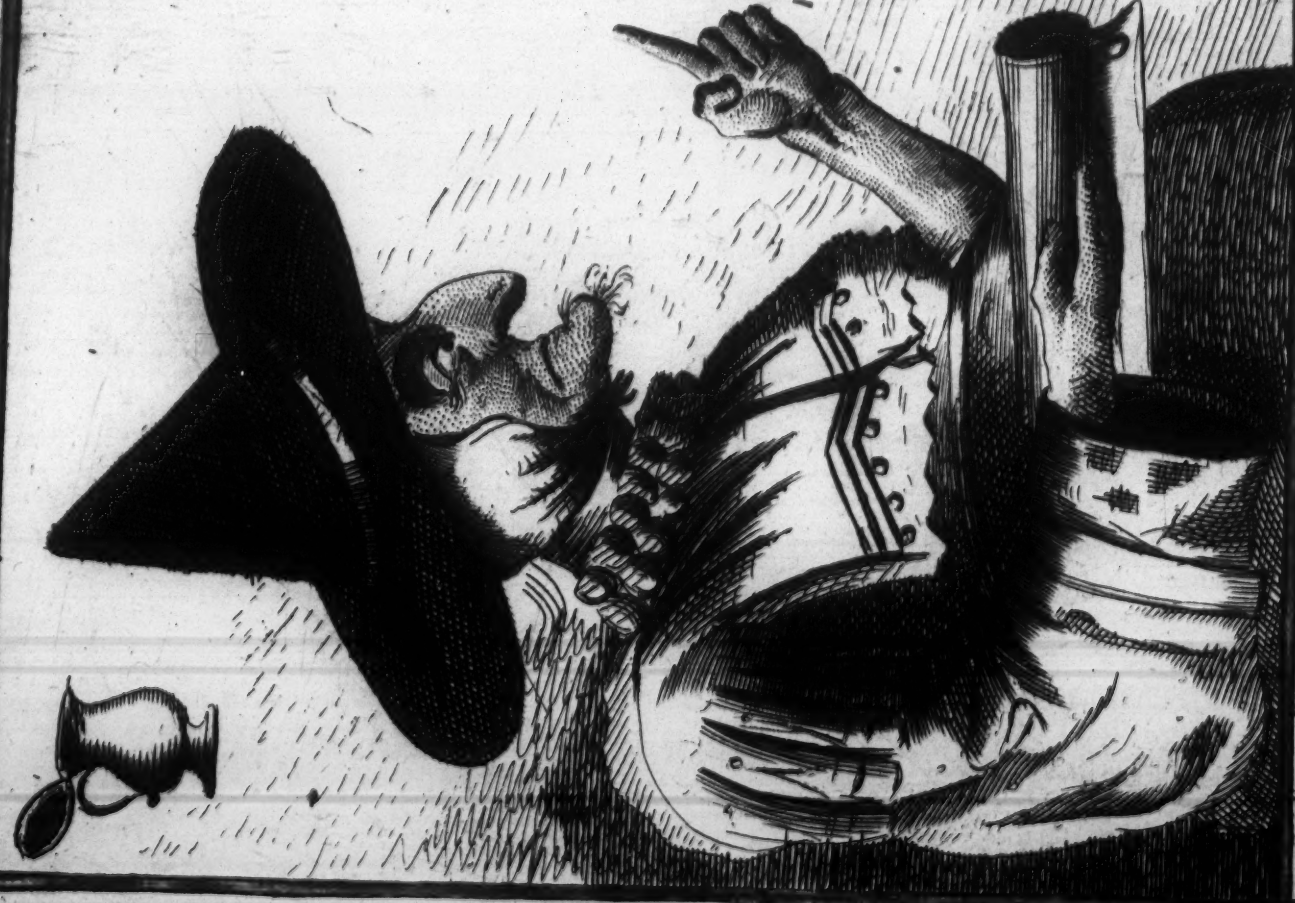
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1797.



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THE FAMOUS MOTHER SHIPTON

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MOTHER SHIPTON'S LIFE,

AND

CURIOUS PROPHECIES.

VARIOUS have been the conjectures of mankind, in this part of the world, concerning our famous prophetess. Some have reported her father was a Necromancer, and her mother a Witch, so she had the Black Art by Succession, others, of a more exalted turn, pretend, that her mother, being left an orphan about the age of Sixteen, took a walk into the fields, and sitting down upon a green Bank, under a shade, to sooth her Melancholy, a Dæmon, in the shape of a handsome young man, appeared before her, and enquired the cause of her distress; she answered him, her parents and friends were dead, and she dispaired of a livelihood; upon which, under a pretence of being a person of figure and fortune, he gave her to understand, if she would comply with his desires he would preserve her above the reach of want

as long as she lived; she readily condescended, received him into her apartment, and entertained him as a Gallant; in return, he bid her sweep the floor once every day after his departure; she punctually observed his directions; and never failed finding a quantity of nine-pences, three-pences, and other *odd* kind of pieces sufficient for all her occasions.

At length the embraces of her Infernal Gallant, produced a Pregnancy, and at the time of her delivery, such a terrible storm of Thunder and Lightning appeared, that houses were beat down, trees shattered, and the very features of the child were so warped and distorted, that it appeared the very master-piece of deformity.

But these, and many other reports of the like nature, are as romantic as the Fabulous intrigues of the Heathen Gods and Goddesses. The Genuine account is, she was born in *July* 1488, in the reign of King Henry VII. near *Knaresborough*, in the County of *York*. She was, like the rest of female Infants, her Mother's daughter by a man; and was Baptised by the Abbot of *Beverly*, by the name of *Ursula Sonthiel*; her stature was larger than common, her body crooked, her face frightful; but her understanding extraordinary.

The

The vulgar relations of her life and actions are equally extravagant with those of her Birth before-mentioned; but as those Legends are so ridiculous and trifling, the ingenuous reader will excuse us if we pass 'em by, and proceed to more probable and authentic information.

'Tis generally held, by most of the first quality and best judgment in the County; that she was a person of an ordinary education, but great piety; and that she was Supernaturally endowed with an uncommon Penetration into Things, for which she became so famous, in time, that great numbers of all ranks and degrees resorted to her Habitation to hear her Wonderful Discoveries.

We find nothing particularly Remarkable of her till she arrived at the age of twenty four years, when she was courted by one *Toby Skipton*, a Builder of *Skipton*, a Village situate four miles north of the City of *York*, who soon after married her; and from this match she afterwards derived the name of Mother *Skipton*.

After her Marriage her fame increased more than ever; the events proved the truth of her Predictions, and many began to commit them to Writing.

The first remarkable Prophecy recorded of her's

her's, is that upon Cardinal *Wolsey*; the story runs as follows.

She was told, the Cardinal intended to remove his residence to *York* (that being his Archbishoprick) upon which she publicly gave out, "*he should never reach the City.*" This report coming to the Cardinal's ear, he sent three gentlemen, or lords of his retinue to her to enquire the truth of it, and to menace her if she persisted in it, these three came disguised to a Village, a mile West of the City called *Dring Houses*, and leaving their horses, they took a guide to direct them to her house; upon their knocking at the door, 'tis said she called out from within, *come in Mr. Beasley* (that being the name of the guide *(and the three noble Lords with you.*" This discovery very much surprized them; but, when they were enter'd, she called each by his name, and presented 'em with Cakes and Ale. They signified to her, if she knew their errand she would hardly treat 'em so handsomely. "*You gave out*" say they, "*the Cardinal should never see York*" "*no,*" she replies, "*I said he might see it, but never come to it.*" They return, "*when he does come he'll certainly burn thee;*" then, taking her linen Handkerchief off her head, "*if this burn*" says she, "*so shall I;*" and

and casting it into the fire before 'em, she let it lie in the flames a quarter of an hour, and taking it out again it was not so much as singed; which very much astonished 'em. One of them asked her, what she thought of him; she answered, "*the time will come, my Lord, when you shall be as low as I am, and that is low indeed.*" This was judged to be verified when *Thomas Lord Cromwell*, was beheaded. The Cardinal coming to *Cawood*, ascended the Castle-Tower, and taking a prospect of the City of *York*, at eight miles distance, he vowed, when he came there he would burn the *Witch*; but e'er he descended the stairs, a message arrived from the King to demand his presence forthwith; so he was obliged to return directly, and being took with a violent looseness at *Leicester*, he gave up the Ghost in his Journey; which verified the prophecy. Several others she delivered to different persons one of which was:—

*Before *Ouze-Bridge and †Trinity-Church meet, what is built in the Day shall fall in the Night, till the highest Stone of the Church be the lowest Stone of the Bridge.*

This came to pass; for the Steeple was blown down by a Tempest, and the Bridge broke down

*A large Stone Bridge over the River *Ouze*, within the City of *York*.

† A Church situate several hundred yards from the Bridge.

by a Flood occasioned by the Storm, and how it came to pass we can't learn, that what they built in the Day fell down in the Night; but 'tis generally asserted it was so; and it is certain that the top-Stone of the former Steeple is the foundation Stone of that part of the Bridge then rebuilt.

The second of this kind runs thus; *Time shall happen; a Ship shall sail upon the River Thames, till it reach the City of London, the Master shall weep, and cry out, Ah! what a flourishing City was this when I left it, unequalled through the World! but now scarce a house is left to entertain us with a Flaggon.*

This was terribly verified when the City was burnt, September 1666, there being not *one* house left from the Tower to the Temple,

We now come to the Prophecies that occasioned this Publication, and which appear far to exceed *every thing* of the like nature extant.

A Copy of them was lately found amongst other Valuable Manuscripts the Property of a Gentleman deceased, with this Title.

A Copy of a Collection of Prophecies delivered to the Abbot of Beverly, by Mother Ursula Ship-ton; the Original of which hath been preserved in Manuscript in a Noble Family these many Years

Years and was discovered among other curious and valuable Papers.

The Prophecies are as follow:—

About the Time that One shall be,

Join'd unto Two times Three,

And Four times Ten with Four times Two,*

Amongst us shall be great ado.

An Eagles Head that time shall fall,

And scatter sore his Young Ones all.

Then shall a Cypher swell full great

His Name † A Hundred takes the Seat,

And shall do mighty Things before,

He is removed off the Shore;

But Ten times Five with Two and Six, ‡

Him in another World shall fix.

And quickly after you shall spy,

The Eagle back again to fly. §

He shall bedeck himself again,

With Feathers on his Father's Train.

'Till heavy Times shall make Men say,

Full off' Alack! and Well-a-day.

And after all a Cloud shall come,

And almost darken quite the Sun,

And in that Time Actions shall be,

Chieffy driven on by Three;

* A. D. 1648.

† The Usurper Oliver Cromwell.

‡ A. D. 1658.

§ Restoration of King Charles the second.

*The Cross, the Surplice, and the Crown,
Strive who shall put each other down,*

Great Treach'ry and Bloodshed then,

25

Shall sweep away great Store of Men,

The Lion and blue Flow'rs shall Seek

Quite to destroy th' Heretick Sheep;

And when the Cow shall ride the Bull,

Then Motly Priest beware thy Skull.

30

For a sweet Pious Prince make room,

And for the Kirk prepare a Broom.

Alesto next shall seize the Crown,

And Streams of Blood run Smithfield down.

A Maiden-Queen full many a Year,

35

Shall England's warlike Scepter bear.

The Western Monarch's wooden Horses,

Shall be destroyed by a Drake's Forces.

The Northern Lion over Tweed,

The Maiden-Queen shall next succeed.

40

And join in One Two Mighty States,

And then shall Janus shut his Gates.

New England soon is hard bested,

Before the Mitre's head be rid.

False Ireland contrives our woe,

45

But zealous Scotland doth not so.

Rough Mars shall rage as he were wood,

And earth shall dark'ned be with blood.

Then will be sacrificed, C.

And not a king in England be.

50

But

CURIOUS PROPHECIES.

13

*But death shall snatch the Wolf away,
Confusion shall give up its sway,
And fate to England shall restore,
A king to reign as heretofore.*

*Triumphant death rides London thro':
And men on tops of houses go.*

55

*J. R. shall into saddle slide,
And furiously to Rome shall ride.*

*The Pope shall have a fatal fall,
And never more distress Whitehall.*

60

*A queen shall knit both North and South,
And take away the 'Luce's tooth.*

*A Lion-Duce shall after reign,
And of the Whiskers clear the main.*

*But he that chanceth to survive,
Shall see Old England mainly thrive.*

65

*England's wonder which ne'er hath been,
Three queens in England shall be seen.*

*Two dukes shall for the crown contend,
And bring the M——y to end.*

*B——s shall fall into contempt and scorn,
And Gospel Anglers shall the Kirk adorn.*

If any ask, how these things come to pass;

The Fox shall ride the Goose, the Goose the As.

URSULA SHIPTON.

B

The greatest part of what has been hitherto published under the title of *Mother Shipton's* prophecies, plainly appears to be no more than imperfect bits and scraps of this collection, carried away, perhaps, in the memory of such as might, sometime have the opportunity of seeing it in the Noble Family where it was deposited. The whole seems entirely to point at the *great events* that already have, and yet may happen to both church and state in this, and the neighbouring nations.

EXPLANATION of the DIFFERENT PROPHECIES.

The first thirty verses seem to relate to the disasters that should befall great part of *Europe*, during the time of King *Henry VIII.* For the 29th and 30th verses terminate in his reign, and are the last wherein *that* reign can be understood to be hinted at.

Verse 29. *And when the cow shall ride the bull*
This seems to have been fulfilled when *Henry VIII.* married Lady *Anna Bullen*; for he, as Duke of *Richmond*, placed the *cow* in his arms, and the crest of her family was a black *bull's head*.

V. 30. *Then*

V. 30. *Then motly priest beware thy skull.*

Presently after the king's marriage, the seizure of Abbey Lands, &c. and the dissolution of monasteries ensued; whereby the *skull*, or *head-piece* of the priesthood (i. e. *gain*) was miserably broke.

V. 31. *For a sweet pious prince make room.*

By this, doubtless, is meant King *Edward VI.* a part of whose character is thus given by the learned Dean *Echard*, in his *History of England*: "He was truly just and merciful in his disposition; and took special care of the petitions that were given him by the poor and oppressed. "But his zeal for religion crowned all the rest; "which did not proceed from an angry *beat*, "but from a *real tenderness* of conscience, "founded on the love of God, and his fellow creatures."

V. 32. *And for the *Kirk prepare a broom.*

This alludes to the beginning of the reformation; when many superstitions were swept out of the church.

V. 33. *Aleto next shall seize the crown.*

Aleto was one of the fabulous *furies* of the Heathen; whose employment was to kindle war, and distress mankind. She is here placed for Queen *Mary I.* In whose reign, as it is alluded

* A North country word for *Church*.

to in the 34th verse, the blood of the Glorious Protestant Martyrs was plentifully shed in Smithfield.

V. 35 and 36.

*A maiden queen, full many a year,
Shall England's warlike scepter bear.*

By these are meant Queen Elizabeth, who reigned 44 years, 4 months and 6 days, upon whom Andrew Marvel has left the following verses:—

" The other day sam'd Spencer, I did bring,

" In lofty notes Tudor's bless'd race to sing;

" How Spain's proud pow'r's her Virgin-Arms

" controull'd,

" And golden days in peaceful order roll'd;

" How like ripe fruit, she dropp'd from off her

" throne,

" Full of grey hairs, good deeds, and great re-

" nown "

Verfes 37 and 38.

*The Western Monarch's wooden Horses,
Shall be destroyed by a Drake's Forces.*

The *Western Monarch* is supposed to mean the King of Spain, whose Country lies on the West side of the Continent; and his *wooden Horses* his Fleet of Ships, or *Armada*, vanquished by the *Brave Admiral Drake* and the rest of the Queen's Forces, in the Year 1588.

Verfes

Verfes 39 and 40.

The Northern Lion, over Tweed,

The Maiden Queen ſhall next ſucceed.

The Northern Lion; i. e. King James I. born in *Scotland*, called a *Lion* not in confideration of any great Heroisms he ſhould perform, but becauſe the *Lion* is the principal Figure in the *Britiſh Arms*; whence the *King*, as the principal Perſon in the Realm, metaphorically takes the Name.

Verſes 41 and 42.

And Join in One Two mighty States,

Then ſhall Janus ſhut his Gates.

The firſt bears an Alluſion to the Uniting of the Two Crowns of *England* and *Scotland* in One; in the Perſon of King James. And the ſecond, points out the *Peaceful Reign* of that Monarch, by ſhutting the Gates of *Janus*; who was one of the Heathen Gods, and the Gates of whoſe Temple were never ſhut but in time of Peace.

Verſes 43 and 44 ſeem to hint at ſome great Calamities that ſhould befall this Nation before the Depoſition of Episcopacy, in the Reign of the *Republican Anarchy*, under the *Uſurper Oliver Cromwell*.

B 3

Verſes

Verses 45 and 46.

*False Ireland contrives our Woe,
But zealous Scotland doth not so.*

Doubtless these intended the *execrable* Massacre in *Ireland*, in the Reign of King *Charles I.* And the Loyalty of the *Scotch* in not joining the *Irish* Rebels, but suffering with the *English*.

Verses 47 48 49 and 50.

*Rough Mars shall rage as he were *wood,
And Earth shall dark'ned be with Blood.
Then will be sacrificed, C,
And not a King in England be.*

This was verified in the time of the Grand Rebellion, and *most unnatural* Civil War, when the Nation was torn and pillag'd, the Laws broke, the Constitution overturned, the King and Monarchy *most execrably* Slain together.

Verses 51 52 53 and 54.

*But Death shall snatch the Wolf away;
Confusion shall give up the Sway;
And Fate to England shall restore,
A King to Reign as heretofore.*

If we can guess right, the first of these Verses alludes to the Death of the usurper *Oliver Cromwell*, who is very properly depicted as a *Wolf*; and the other three to the Restoration of King *Charles the second*.

• Mad.

Verses

Verses 55 and 56.

*Triumphant Death rides London thro'
And Men on Tops of Houses go.*

The first in all appearance, points out the terrible Plague that raged in *London A. D. 1665*. The second circumstantially alludes to the dreadful Fire in the Year following; signifying that People should be obliged to run from one House to another, over the Tops of the Houses, to save themselves, and their Effects.

Verse 57 *J. R. shall into Saddle Slide.*

J. R. i. e. James Rex. or King James 2nd who ascended the Throne upon the death of King Charles II.

V. 58. *And furiously to Rome shall ride*

Scarce was he settled upon the Throne, before he went to Mass publicly; and, by pursuing imprudent and illegal Measures, was the Cause of the Verification of

Verses 59 60.

*The Pope shall have a fatal fall,
And never more distress Whitehall.*

For he was abdicated for his Mis-goverment, and his Son-in-Law King *William* and Queen *Mary II.* were placed upon his Throne.

V. 61. *A Queen shall knit both North and South.*
This

This seems to refer to the Union of *England* and *Scotland* in the Reign of *Queen Ann.*

V. 62, *And take away the 'Luce's Tooth.*

This likewise seems to relate to her extraordinary Victories over *Lewis* 14th King of *France*; who we judge to be intended here by the *Luce*, which by way of Allusion, might here be put for *Flower de Luce*; the Arms of that Monarchy

Verfes 63 64.

A Lion-Duce *shall after Reign,*
And of the Whiskers clear the Main.

What is meant by the *Lion Duce* may be matter of amusement to the curious; but as the word *Duce* sometimes represents the number *two*, so *two* in this ambiguous phrase may intend the similar word *second*; and our present Gracious Sovereign,* being the *second Lion* (or English Monarch) of his name, it is far from being unlikely that he may be the Prince here pointed out who shall clear the main of the *Whiskers*, which is a Northern term for *Mustachoes*, and doubtless alludes to the *Spanish*, whose fashion it has been for many centuries past to wear them. But as this appears to relate to the

* The explanation of the above verse was taken from an edition of *Mother Shipton's Prophecies*, printed in the reign of King George the Second.

present

present age, we leave it to the skilful and ingenious; as we likewise do the following lines, which seem to predict something further below than the reach of the present age.

Whether the prophecy of the *Lilly* be *Mother Shipton's* or no, we can't certainly determine, but as it has been attributed to her, and is writ in a peculiar sublimity of sense and stile, we think it would be very improper to omit it. It runs as follows.

A CURIOUS PROPHECY

The Lilly shall remain in a merry World; and he shall be moved against the seed of the Lion; and he shall stand on one side of his Country with a number of ships. Then shall come the son of man, having a fierce Beast in his arms; whose Kingdom is the Land of the Moon, which is dreaded throughout the whole World. With a number of people shall he pass many Waters and shall come to the Land of the Lion, looking for help of the Beast of his Country. And an Eagle shall come out of the East, spread with the Beams of the Son of Man and shall destroy Castles of the Thames; and there shall be Battles among many Kingdoms. That year shall be the Bloody field, and Lilly, F. K. shall lose his Crown; and therewith shall
be

be Crowned the Son of Man K. W. and the fourth year shall be many Battles for the faith, and the Son of Man, with the Eagle shall be preferred; and there shall be an universal Peace over the whole World; and there shall be plenty of fruits; and then shall he go to the Land of the Cross.

Whether the accomplishment of the above Prophecy be past, or to come we cannot ascertain. It appears to be very deep and Mysterious; we therefore leave it to Persons of profounder Penetration and superior Judgment.

We are informed, the last Prediction of our famous Prophetess, was concerning the time of her own death; which 'tis said she declared to several who visited her in her advanced Age; and when the time she Prophecied of, approached, she called her friends together, advised them well, and took a Solemn leave of them, and, laying herself down on her Bed, she departed with much Serenity; A. D. 1651 being upwards of seventy Years of Age; after her death a Monument of Stone was erected to her Memory; in the high North-Road betwixt the Villages of *Clifton* and *Skipton*, about a mile distant

distant from the City of *York*, (see the plate)
The Monument represents a Woman upon her
knees, with her hands closed before her, in a
praying posture; and stands there to be seen to
this day. The following is said to have been her

Epitaph,

Here lyes the who never ly'd,
Whose skill often has been try'd,
Her Prophecies shall still surbide,
And ever keep her name alive.

So here we must take leave of the Courteous
Reader,

FINIS.

[Entered at Stationer's Hall.]

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